

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A sheet discharge device that is incorporated as a part of a processing device body and discharges a sheet processed at a processing section in the processing device body toward a sheet stacking section disposed at an upper section of the processing device body, comprising:

a unit receiving section formed at the processing device body,

a plurality of sheet discharge units each having a different specification and being mounted to the unit receiving section to be attached thereto and detached therefrom, each sheet discharge unit having a normal discharge path directing toward the sheet stacking section and a reverse discharge path that is branched from the way of the normal discharge path to extend toward a direction of a reverse discharge and that communicates with a sheet transport path of an external unit connectable to a side of the processing device body, and

a discharge port of the reverse discharge path is set to the same position in the plurality of sheet discharge units.

2. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the sheet discharge units is removable from the unit receiving section.

3. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the sheet discharge units is provided with a discharge member disposed proximate to an upper surface of the sheet stacking section provided at the upper section of the processing device body.

4. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 3, wherein each of the sheet discharge units has a height from the upper surface of the sheet stacking section to the discharge member when the sheet discharge unit is mounted to the unit receiving section, which the height is different from one another.

5. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein a discharge capacity of a sheet is variably set according to a sheet transporting speed of the processing device body in the plurality of sheet discharge units.

6. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein a discharge capacity of a sheet is variably set according to a sheet feeding amount of the processing device body in the plurality of sheet discharge units.

7. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein a discharge capacity of a sheet is variably

set according to a sheet processing amount of the processing device body in the plural sheet discharge units.

8. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein a roller member is provided at least on a lower wall of the normal discharge path.

9. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein the discharge member is mounted in the vicinity of a discharge port of the normal discharge path, and at least upper and lower wall faces of the reverse discharge path are formed not to block a linear reference surface connecting a nipping section of the discharge member and a lower edge of the discharge port of the reverse discharge path.

10. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein an upper wall of the reverse discharge path is upwardly withdrawn from an extending surface of an upper wall of the normal discharge path.

11. The sheet discharge device according to Claim 1, wherein lower walls of the normal discharge path and the reverse discharge path are formed into an approximately V-shape for widening a space in the vicinity of a crossing section of the normal discharge path and

the reverse discharge path.

12. A sheet processing device comprising:

a sheet discharge device that is incorporated as a part of a processing device body and discharges a sheet processed at a processing section in the processing device body toward a sheet stacking section disposed at an upper section of the processing device body, comprising:

a unit receiving section formed at the processing device body,

a plurality of sheet discharge units each having a different specification and being mounted to the unit receiving section to be attached thereto and detached therefrom, each sheet discharge unit having a normal discharge path directing toward the sheet stacking section and a reverse discharge path that is branched from the way of the normal discharge path to extend toward a direction of a reverse discharge and that communicates with a sheet transport path of an external unit connectable to a side of the processing device body, and

a discharge port of the reverse discharge path is set to the same position in the plurality of sheet discharge units.

13. The sheet processing device according to Claim 12, wherein an external unit is added to a discharge port of a reverse discharge path.

14. The sheet processing device according to Claim 13, wherein the external unit is a duplex unit.

15. The sheet processing device according to Claim 13, wherein the external unit is a post-processing unit.

16. An image forming device comprising:
a sheet feeding device that feeds a plurality of sheets,
an imaging engine that forms an image on a sheet fed by the sheet feeding device,
a sheet discharge unit that discharges the sheet having an image formed thereon by the imaging engine, and
a sheet stacking section for stacking the plurality of sheets discharged from the sheet discharge unit, wherein the sheet discharge unit is exchangeable according to a number of sheets stacked on the sheet stacking section.

17. The image forming device according to Claim 16, further comprising a unit receiving section provided with an engaging section for engaging with the sheet discharge unit, wherein the sheet discharge unit is detachable by releasing engagement of the engaging section.

18. The image forming device according to Claim 17, further comprising a sheet transport path that extends from the sheet discharge device via the vicinity of the imaging engine to communicate with the unit receiving section, wherein the sheet discharge unit has a normal discharge path for discharging a transported sheet and the normal discharge path and the sheet transport path are arranged to communicate with each other.

19. The image forming device according to Claim 18, further comprising a reverse transport unit attachable to a body of the image forming device and having a reverse transport path for reversing a sheet, wherein the sheet discharge unit has a reverse discharge path for reversing the sheet transported through the sheet transport path and the reverse discharge path and the reverse transport path are arranged to communicate with each other.

20. The image forming device according to Claim 17, wherein the sheet discharge unit has an increased height from an upper surface of the sheet stacking section to a position where the sheet is discharged from the sheet discharge unit with the sheet discharge unit attached to the unit receiving section, when a number of sheets stacked on the stacking section is large.

21. A managing method of an image forming device comprising:

a sheet discharge unit for discharging a sheet fed from a sheet feeding device, and

a sheet stacking section for stacking a plurality of sheets discharged from the sheet discharge unit, wherein the sheet discharge unit has an increased height from an upper surface of the sheet stacking section to a position where the sheet is discharged from the sheet discharge unit when a number of sheets stacked on the stacking section is large.